

Activity: 7-1-7 and outbreaks in the news

Scenario set: Malaria

Instructions

- On your own, **read** through the following news article(s).
- In your group, **discuss** applying the 7-1-7 approach to the situation described in the article.
 - How could using 7-1-7 in real-time have been helpful in the early phase of this outbreak response?
 - At which government level(s) might 7-1-7 be useful to apply for this outbreak (e.g. national level, subnational, multiple subnational areas) and why?
 - How could 7-1-7 findings from this outbreak be used to inform actions + planning?
- Use your imagination and/or experience to answer if the article does not have enough information.
- In plenary, briefly **summarize** the article and your discussion.

News article #1

Health ministry on high alert as malaria cases increase, nine deaths recorded

The Namibian | By Shania Lazarus | 24 December 2024

Namibia has recorded 2,210 malaria cases nationally as of 15 December, including nine deaths as a result of the rainy season. The Ministry of Health and Social Services warned of an increase in the number of cases until April when the rainy season ends. The ministry last week announced that the majority of the cases were recorded in the northern parts of the country.

“The majority of the cases were reported from the Eenhana district (with 661 cases), accounting for 30%, followed by Okongo (with 336 cases), accounting for 15% of the total cases,” ministry of health executive director Ben Nangombe says in a statement. The affected districts include Eenhana, Okongo, Outapi, Engela, Nkurenkuru, Oshikuku, Omuthiya, Oshakati, Onandjokwe, Tsumeb, Rundu, Okahao, Tsandi, Ncamagoro, Nyangana and Andara.

“At least 16 malaria-endemic districts have surpassed the epidemic threshold and are experiencing outbreaks,” says Nangombe. Nangombe adds that the cases are expected to increase due to the rainy season. “The ministry, therefore, calls on all Namibians and travellers to the north and north-eastern parts of the country to take all necessary precautions to prevent malaria infections,” he says.

The original article can be accessed at: <https://www.namibian.com.na/health-ministry-on-high-alert-as-malaria-cases-increase-nine-deaths-recorded/>

News article #2

Namibia records about 6,000 malaria cases, 28 deaths since December

The Namibian | By Namibia Press Agency | 25 January 2025

Namibia is grappling with a malaria outbreak that has resulted in nearly 6,000 cases, including hundreds of hospitalisations and several deaths. The Ministry of Health and Social Services says it has recorded 5,898 malaria cases, including 840 hospital admissions and 28 deaths, between December 2024 and 19 January 2025. Of this amount, 3,493 cases were locally transmitted and

2,496 were imported cases, executive director of health and social services Ben Nangombe said at a media conference on Friday.

He said Namibia usually experiences seasonal malaria transmission peaks in December which last until late April. Nangome said 20 out of 26 malaria-endemic districts have surpassed the epidemic threshold and are currently experiencing outbreaks.

The most affected districts include Eenhana in the Ohangwena region, which reported 24% of the total number of cases, Okongo (in the Ohangwena region) with 13%, Engela (in the Ohangwena region) with 13%, Nkurenkuru in the Kavango West region with 12%, and Outapi in the Omusati region, which reported 10% of the total cases.

“More than half of the Namibian population live in malaria-endemic areas, particularly the rural communities. Some groups, communities or demographics are considered to be at higher risk of developing complicated malaria due to delayed access to health services,” Nangombe said. To address the outbreak, the ministry has activated emergency response mechanisms, including intensified transmission control, enhanced surveillance, risk communication, community engagement, and cross-border collaboration.

“We call on all Namibians and travellers to malaria-endemic regions to take all the necessary precautions to prevent malaria infections,” Nangombe said. He urged those on malaria treatment to complete the full course even if their symptoms appear to clear up, and warned against sharing medication. Malaria symptoms include fever, headache, muscle or joint pain, chills, sweating, fatigue, nausea and vomiting.

The original article can be accessed at: <https://www.namibian.com.na/namibia-records-about-6-000-malaria-cases-28-deaths-since-december/>